

Home Education Advisory Council

Minutes-- October 9, 2012

The meeting was called to order by Abbey Lawrence at 3:35pm.

Members present: Abbey Lawrence, Joe Pitre, Barrett Christina, Dennis Wyman, Marc Boyd, Roberta Tenney, and Amy Gall; Michael Compitello arrived about 3:45.

Amy agreed to take notes for submission to Abbey, who will edit them into a minutes format.

Minutes:

It was noted that it was erroneously stated at the last meeting that the November meeting would conflict with Election Day. Minutes of the September meeting were accepted by general consent.

Keith Pfeifer will continue to serve on the council. George D'Orazio expects his renomination to be submitted soon.

Chairman's Report:

Abbey and Michael have been invited to attend the Commissioner's meeting with superintendents on October 26 to discuss the recent changes to the home education law.

Abbey stated that she spoke to Sarah Fox about attending a future HEAC meeting to discuss truancy issues.

There was a discussion involving 1) confusion over the letter of notification and 2) a district informing a homeschooler that the student was required to take the NECAP test. Homeschoolers are not required to take the NECAP, even if they are taking classes at the public school. Abbey reported that the student in question had to be entered into the school database in order to register for the class. Perhaps the student was flagged by the computer system to take the test. She related that a NHHC representative reported that she was unable to get a formal transcript for a dual-enrolled class because of the way students must register for classes. Amy added that the

registration system may require home educated students to be assigned a pupil identification number for tracking.

Department Report:

Roberta reported on a call from a parent who wanted to borrow curriculum and books from the school; she encouraged the district to allow books, and also made the parents aware of the option of using VLACS.

There was also a call from a parent who felt she was being pressured by the school district to homeschool a special education student because of a disagreement about the suitability of an aide. Roberta suggested to the parent that the N.H. Homeschooling Coalition website would be a good source of information about homeschooling, but encouraged them to continue to work with the school district.

Legislative Report:

Abbey mentioned a few items in the legislative report Chris Hamilton is preparing:

- * LSRs to eliminate the DOE and transfer its duties to the BOE have been submitted.
- There is an upcoming public hearing regarding education tax credits and how they will be administered.

Abbey stated she will forward the written report when she gets it.

Rules Committee:

Michael will send out an email to the members of the rules subcommittee suggesting several possible dates for a meeting.

Old Business:

Abbey and Michael will attend the Commissioner's meeting with superintendents on October 26 to discuss this year's changes to 193-A. It was suggested that the superintendents be reminded of technical assistance available from the DOE, sample policies from the School Boards Association, and information from the NHHC website.

New Business:

There was no new business.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:28pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Gall